

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program



FACT SHEET



Overview

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the State of Indiana have expanded the existing Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The Program, first announced in 2005, was originally slated to enroll 7,000 acres of eligible land within three watersheds touching 29 counties. The program is now expanded into 11 total watersheds touching 65 counties, with a total acreage goal of 26,250 acres. CREP is a federal-state natural resource conservation program. Its purpose is to address water quality and wildlife issues by reducing sediment and nutrient runoff and enhancing wildlife habitats. Through CREP, program participants receive financial incentives from USDA and the State of Indiana to voluntarily enroll in the program for 14 to 15 years.

Benefits

CREP is designed to help alleviate some of the concerns of high nonpoint source sediment, nutrient, pesticide and herbicide losses from agricultural lands by restoring buffers and wetlands to improve water quality.

Goals

The overall goals of the Indiana CREP are to provide producers in the State an opportunity to voluntarily restore riparian buffers and wetland areas through financial aid and technical assistance. These practices will assist in erosion control, sediment reduction, water retention, and nutrient uptake.

Specific goals include:

- protect a minimum of 3,000 linear miles of watercourses through the installation of buffer practices
- reduce the amount of sediment, nutrients, and agricultural chemicals entering watercourses within the targeted watersheds by eight percent
- enroll 15 percent of eligible watersheds' cropland subject to normal CRP acreage limits by county
- enroll eight percent of the CREP acres in voluntary, 10-year contract extensions in the Tippecanoe Watershed
- enroll 10 percent of the CREP enrolled acres in voluntary, permanent easements in the Tippecanoe Watershed and Upper White River Watershed; and
- enroll 26,250 acres of eligible cropland including frequently flooded agricultural lands and restorable wetlands.

Eligible Areas

For the original CREP, the following three watersheds were eligible:

Tippecanoe

Upper White

Highland-Pigeon

The amendment adds eight additional watersheds, including:

Lower East Fork White	Middle Wabash – Deer
Lower Wabash	Middle Wabash – Little Vermillion
Lower White	Upper East Fork White
Middle Wabash-Busseron	Upper Wabash

The original CREP was open to all or a portion of the following counties:

Benton, Boone, Carroll, Cass, Delaware, Fulton, Gibson, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Henry, Jasper, Kosciusko, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Miami, Noble, Pike, Posey, Pulaski, Randolph, Starke, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Vanderburgh, Warrick, White, and Whitley

The expansion includes all or a portion of the following additional counties:

Adams, Allen, Bartholomew, Brown, Clay, Daviess, Decatur, Dubois, Fountain, Grant, Greene, Howard, Huntington, Jackson, Jay, Jennings, Johnson, Knox, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Morgan, Montgomery, Noble, Owen, Orange, Parke, Putnam, Rush, Shelby, Sullivan, Vermillion, Vigo, Wabash, Wells, Warrick, Washington, and White

Interested producers should contact their local FSA or Soil and Water Conservation Office for specific information regarding eligibility.

Conservation Practices

Specific conservation practices have been identified to meet the program goals. For enrollment, the following practices are offered:

- CP-2 Permanent Native Grasses
- CP-3 Hardwood Tree Planting
- CP-4D Permanent Wildlife Habitat, Non-easement
- CP-21 Filter Strips
- CP-22 Riparian Buffer
- CP-23 Wetland Restoration
- CP-23A Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain
- CP-31 Bottomland Timber Establishment

Sign –up and Eligibility Requirements

Enrollment will begin August 27, 2010. Cropland must meet CRP land eligibility criteria to be eligible for enrollment.

CREP Payments

- Cost Share: 50% of eligible reimbursable practice establishment costs.
- Practice Incentive Payment: A one-time payment equal to 40% of the eligible installation costs for CP-21, CP-22, CP23, CP23A and CP-31.
- Signing Incentive Payment: A one-time payment of \$100/acre for CP-21, CP-22, CP23, CP23A and CP-31.
- Annual Rental Payment:
 - Payment for normal maximum CRP weighted average soil rental rate for the three predominant soil types using the current posted applicable local soil rental rates for cropland offers. Marginal pastureland rates are calculated using applicable local marginal pasture land rental rates in accordance with FSA national CRP directives.
 - Incentive payment of 40% of the base rental rate without regard to other incentive payments (“infeasible to farm” acres are not eligible for incentive payments).
 - A maintenance fee equal to the terms of FSA national CRP directives, if applicable.

In addition, Indiana will offer the following payments:

- A one-time Clean Water Indiana Incentive payment of \$400/acre for CP-3A, CP-22, and CP-31.
- A one-time Clean Water Indiana Incentive payment of \$950/acre for CP-23 and CP-23A.
- A one-time Clean Water Indiana Incentive payment of \$100/acre for CP-2, CP-4D, and CP-21.
- A one-time payment of \$500/acre to participants enrolled in State Permanent Easement in the Upper White River and Tippecanoe watersheds.
- One-time payment of \$250/acre to participants enrolled in a state program to extend the Federal CRP contract an additional 10 years within the Tippecanoe watershed.

Enrollment in CRP

Producers enrolled in the Indiana CREP may also enroll in general and continuous CRP. CREP is another option the producers may select to enhance their land. CREP provides additional benefits not available through the general and/or continuous sign-up.

How to Participate

Interested parties should contact their FSA office or their local Soil and Water Conservation District office. Additional information is also available on FSA's Web site at www.fsa.usda.gov.

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